

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00222 160708 Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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R 160600 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0222

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AT THE PRESS CLUB OF MELBOURNE

1. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM WHILE OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS BEFORE HIS SPEECH, PERFORMED ELOQUENTLY AND FORCEFULLY IN HIS PREPARED ADDRESS ON AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL- STATE RELATIONS AND IN HIS RESPONSES DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD THIS NOON BEFORE OVERFLOW CROWD AT PRESS CLUB OF MELBOURNE.
2. PREPARED SPEECH ON " STYLE, SUBSTANCE AND THRUST" OF FEDERAL- STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STRESSED (A) STATE GOVERNMENT IN HANDLING OF " COMMUNITY AFFAIRS" MUST HAVE FEDERAL FINANCE, (B) IF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TO PAY, IT MUST ALSO BE IN ON THE PLANNING, AND (C) IN ULTIMATE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES, GOA MUST TAKE REGIONAL VIEW, FOR GOOD OF ALL AUSTRALIANS, IN WHICH APPROACH STATE BOUNDARIES HAVE LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE.
3. MOST INTERESTING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:
 - (A) IN RESPONSE TO AGE QUERIES ON WHY AND WHAT GOA EXPECTED ACCOMPLISH BY SEIZING SOME AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (ASIO) FILES THIS MORNING, WHITLAM BLUNTLY REITERATED ANY STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT MUST COME FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MELBOU 00222 160708 Z

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(B) ON BEING ASKED TO EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESENT AND PRE- ELECTION STANCE ON US BASES, WHITLAM MADE DRIVING STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT BASE ACTIVITIES ARE SECRET, MUST BE KEPT SECRET UNDER THE US- AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENTS, AND SHOULD BE SECRET. WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD NOW FULLY INFORMED OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN ON THESE BASES, WHO NOW PRIVY TO THIS INFORMATION WITH HIMSELF (WHITLAM), BARNARD, SENATOR BISHOP AND SENATOR WILLESEE.

(C) IN LIGHTER VEIN REPLY TO QUESTION OF HIS VIEW OF THE PROPOSED UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY WITH THE COUNTRY PARTY, WHITLAM SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE " THE OLD HARLOT CHURCHED".
FLUKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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